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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, February 13,  
1826, from Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe  
Correspondence, Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W.  
Gawalt, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

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**James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson**

Oak Hill Feby 13. 1826.

Dear Sir

It was my intention as it was my desire, to have communicated to the committee no part of your letter of the 13th of Jan'y 1803, announcing my appointment, to France & Spain, and on that principle I acted at the last Session. From this however I have been induced to depart reluctantly by intimations which have been recently given me, by some friends in Washington, that no evidence being shewn of any particular solicitude on your part, for my acceptance of that mission, & prompt departure in execution of its duties, the fact might, and probably would be denied in the house, whereby an essential ground on which a part of my claims rest would be shaken. I therefore copies the first paragraph of that letter, in the form possess'd, by that of the last winter, & gave it to Mr. Gouverneur when here last week to be deliver'd to the Chairman of the Committee, which I presume he has done. Independant of any effect which it may have on my claim, the evidence which it affords of your favorable opinion of my previous services, & friendly feeling towards me, will always be a source of great qualification to me.

Although my inheritance in Westmoreland county was small, yet by the sale of it, and the

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judicious investment of the amount receiv'd from it, in western lands in early life and the application thereof in alternate purchases elsewhere & particularly in Albemarle where I expected & wished to have passd the remainder of my days, I had laid the foundation, with some small professional aid, of independence, which had I remained at home a few years longer, would, I have no doubt, have been compleated. By my public employments, and especially those abroad, this hope has been defeated, and such is actually my situation, that I do not think that the grant of my claims will nearly relieve me by which I mean, will leave me enough to exist in tolerable comfort with my family. My debts abroad were great, and my plantations in Albemarle & here, have added considerably to them every year, so that with accumulated loans and interest, compound added to simple, they have come immense. This is a true, tho' melancholy picture of the actual state of my affairs. I have been led to give it by the obligation I have felt to explain to you my motive for communicating to the committee, the extract from your letter , above noticd.

With great respect & sincere regard I am your friend & servant James Monroe

Feby. 14th P.S. I have this moment receivd a paper from Richmond, which gives an account of your application to the Legislature, for the grant of a lottery for the sale of your estate to relieve you from embarrassment. I cannot express the concern which this view of your affairs has given me, altho' I can readily conceive the causes which have led to it. They are

such as the State, and inclosed the whole union, most feel. I will write to you again on the subject.

RC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).